

WHAT IS CLAIMED

- 1) A machine tool, comprising:
 - at least one pair of slide ways, set apart one from another and extending parallel with a predominating longitudinal axis;
 - a machining station delimited laterally by the slide ways and presenting a first zone and a second zone adjacent one to the other;
 - a traveling gantry associated with the pair of slide ways and carrying a machining head positioned above the machining station, capable of movement along the ways in such a way that the machining head can be positioned in the first and second zones;
 - a magazine placed alongside at least one of the slide ways and containing a plurality of tools attachable to the machining head, comprising a first changer element positioned to coincide with the respective first zone of the station, and a second changer element positioned to coincide with the respective second zone, each capable of movement between a first operating position in which it occupies the magazine for the purpose of selecting at least one tool, and a second position in which it

occupies the machining station for the purpose of fitting the tool to the machining head.

- 2) A machine as in claim 1, wherein the magazine further comprises a chamber, and a selector device capable of movement internally of the chamber so that it can offer a tool to each changer element when in the relative first operating position.
- 3) A machine as claims 1 and 2, wherein each changer element comprises: a fixed support presenting a first end anchored stably to the magazine and a second end opposite to the first end; also a movable portion pivotably associated with the second end of the fixed support.
- 4) A machine as in claim 3, wherein the movable portion comprises an arm of which at least one end is equipped with a gripper element serving to hold a machining tool.
- 5) A machine as in claim 3, wherein the movable portion comprises an arm of which the opposite ends are equipped with respective gripper elements, each serving to hold a machining tool.

- 6) A machine as in claim 4 and claim 5, wherein the arm is rotatable about a substantially vertical axis between a first position corresponding to the first position of the changer element, in which a tool is taken up from the magazine by the gripper element, and a second position corresponding to the second position of the changer element, in which the tool is offered by the gripper element to the machining head.
- 7) A machine as in claim 2, wherein the chamber presents a plurality of horizontal and parallel supports, attached to the internal walls of the selfsame chamber and serving to hold the machining tools when not in use.
- 8) A machine as in claim 7, wherein the selector device comprises a substantially vertical column slidable alongside the supports, also a slide traversable vertically along the length of the column and presenting a gripper assembly, capable of movement between a first position of alignment with the horizontal supports, in which a machining tool is taken up by the gripper assembly, and a second position of proximity to the first or second changer element in which the tool is transferred from the gripper assembly to the changer element.

- 9) A machine as in claim 2, wherein the selector device comprises a sliding looped belt describing a substantially elliptical path that includes a rectilinear branch passing in close proximity to the first and second changer elements.
- 10) A machine as in claim 9, wherein the belt presents a plurality of carrier portions ordered along the developable length of the loop and serving to support the single tools, each capable of movement between a first position in which a selected tool is held in alignment with the belt, and a second position, assumed along the rectilinear branch, in which the tool is offered to the first or the second changer element.
- 11) A machine as in claim 1, further comprising two parallel side walls, each located under a relative slide way and delimiting the machining station laterally, wherein the magazine is located externally of the machining station and associated with one of the side walls.
- 12) A machine as in claim 2, wherein the changer element occupies a respective opening fashioned in the side wall associated with the magazine.

- 13) A machine as in preceding claims, wherein the traveling gantry comprises:
- two uprights, each presenting a first end slidably associated with one of the ways, and a respective second end opposite from the first end;
 - a beam set transversely to the longitudinal axis and presenting two opposite ends anchored respectively to the second ends of the uprights;
 - a drive unit by way of which the machining head is associated with the beam in a position facing the machining station, capable of movement along the beam in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the machine in such a way as to position the machining head in close proximity to the first and second changer element when in the respective second position.
- 14) A machine as in preceding claims, comprising a bulkhead positioned between the first and second zones, wherein the gantry is traversable above the bulkhead from one zone to the other.